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Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid Allegiance Health Employees

The state's Rapid Response Team has been activated to help workers who will lose their jobs when Allegiance Health in Farmington closes. About 60 permanent and 70 temporary employees will be laid off between September 13 and October 25.

The layoffs at Allegiance are attributed to a reorganization within the company. Allegiance Health manufactures surgical trays for medical facilities.

The Rapid Response team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Southeast Workforce Investment Board responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

In the case of Allegiance Health, the Rapid Response team is also working with Spherion Workforce Architects to identify the temporary workers who may not be referred immediately to other employment opportunities.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Allegiance Health employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"Our staff is committed to doing everything they can to help these workers find new jobs," Driskill said. "The staff members at the Missouri Career Centers are very qualified and have excellent resources right at their fingertips. Allegiance Health workers who are being displaced will be able to take advantage of free services such as preparing resumes, career counseling, and in some cases, training toward a new skill."

Other services provided by the Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center include interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the Southeast Workforce Investment Board are working with Allegiance Health to ensure that workers have access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers at 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m., and at 1 p.m. on Aug. 13 to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

Employers interested in hiring Allegiance Health workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services, offered through the Rapid Response team, should call DWD at 1-800-877-8698.